

Amendments to the Drawings

Submitted herewith are corrected drawings which have been prepared to address the Examiner's objection to the drawings.

REMARKS

The present invention is a method and apparatus for securing a fur to a pelting board which is temporarily fastened to a pelting board holder by the fur being placed on the pelting board. A method in accordance with the embodiment of the invention includes retaining an end part of the fur with a fur holder 3; and stretching the fur placed on the pelting board 6 to a desired length, while the end part is retained in the fur holder; and while the end part of the fur is fixed on the pelting board, winding a winding material around the fur to retain the fur in a stretched position including after the pelting board is removed from the pelting board holder.

The drawing stands objected to because Fig. 3 is illegible. Submitted herewith are corrected drawings which have been prepared to address the Examiner's objection to the drawings.

The specification also stands objected to regarding the Abstract. Submitted herewith is a Second Substitute Specification which includes further editorial revisions and a revised Abstract which is submitted to address the Examiner's requirements regarding the Abstract being in a single paragraph.

Claims 9-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent 6,701,756 (Hedegaard) in view of United States Patent 6,490,852 (Mustachich et al). Specifically, the Examiner reasons as follows:

Hedegaard teaches a method for securing a fur on a pelting board which is temporarily fastened in a pelting board holder, wherein the fur is stretched on the pelting board to a desired length and fixed thereto without damaging the fur (Abstract; Figure 4). While Hedegaard essentially teaches the invention as detailed, he fails to specifically teach wrapping an elastic (inherent of the material taught) band around the central material via a displaceable winding unit having a stoppable supply reel and movable around the central material on a guide ring,

which Mustacich teaches (Figure 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have utilized such a winding mechanism, so as to temporarily fasten a material in a known manner. Hedegaard teaches using a sleeve to hold the fur in place without damage, but the ordinarily skilled artisan would have understood that any manner of product could be used that would create a pressure on the outside of fur against the pelting board to temporarily fasten them, including wrapping a length of elastic material. Mustacich teaches us that such mechanisms to wrap elastic material are already known and understood, and the ordinarily skilled artisan would have found it obvious to try combining the two, so as to create a temporary fastening means for the fur to the pelt. In regards to the band locking to itself, knot tying is well known and well within the ordinarily skilled artisan's abilities.

These grounds of rejection are traversed with respect to claim 9 for the following reasons.

First, with regard to Hedegaard, the Examiner's conclusion that "Hedegaard essentially teaches the invention as detailed is traversed. Hedegaard relies upon a "bag item 8 which in the shown embodiment is made of paper with perforations 9 as indicated in Fig. 1" to attach a pelt 6 to a pelting board 2 so as to stretch the fur to an optimum length, as, for example, set forth in the Abstract, which is not based upon the principal of elasticity or winding. Certainly, the Examiner is not suggesting that a paper bag has a degree of elasticity which is utilized in the attachment of the fur to the pelting board 2. In essence, the bag forms a tight sleeve to retain the fur in a stretched condition.

The device of Hedegaard relies upon the sleeve/paper bag being so tightly pulled over the pelt so as to stop it from sliding back from its tightening position. This is readily apparent from claim 1 where Hedegaard specifically claims "drawing a sleeve or bag item over and around the pelt board and the pelt from a nose end of the pelt board until internal side walls of the sleeve are brought into tight contact with a fur side of the pelt (emphasis added)". As may be seen from the claimed subject

matter and the disclosure of Hedegaard, there is no reliance upon elasticity or winding of a winding material for retaining the fur to the pelting board.

The Examiner's reliance upon Mustacich et al is clearly based upon impermissible hindsight based upon non-analogous prior art. In the first place, it is noted that Mustacich et al relates to the assembly of "electrically insulated chromatograph instruments" which of course is far removed from the field of processing fur pelts. Specifically, as may be seen from Fig. 1, the GC component member 40 is drawn off of a spool 85 and wound around another spool 75 while at the same time, spools 35 and 36 provide ceramic roving or fibers which are wrapped around the GC component member 40. See column 5, lines 53-67, through column 6, lines 1-50.

The Examiner has not provided any objective basis in the record why a person of ordinary skill in the art would consider replacement of a non-elastic paper bag/sleeve, which tightly retains the fur to the pelting box, and is the antithesis of a winding material, to "wind a winding material around the fur to retain the fur in a stretched position, including after the pelting board is removed from the pelting board holder" as claimed. The fact that Mustacich et al wrap a GC component member 40 with fiber has not been demonstrated in the record to have any relevance with the claimed invention which readily demonstrates the nature of the Examiner's hindsight reconstruction.

What is clear is that the Examiner has utilized a hindsight reconstruction of the Applicant's specification to suggest that a person of ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious to dispense with a tightly fitting sleeve-like member in Hedegaard and replace it with a much simpler mechanism of a winding material which is attached by

a totally different and simple mechanism instead of a sleeve fit. The Examiner has not suggested any objective basis in the record why the wrapping of the outside of a fur pelt with a winding material to retain the fur in a stretched position on a pelting board would be considered as being an obvious application of the winding of GC components 40 with fiber of Mustacich et al.

If the Examiner persists in the stated grounds of rejection, it is requested that he point out on the record some objective basis of why the modification of Hadegaard would be made from Mustacich et al which is clearly non-analogous to a person of ordinary skill in the art of pelt processing. The Examiner has not explained why on the record a person of ordinary skill in the art would even consider using a winding material to retain the stretched fur to the pelting board let alone considering using a mechanism for applying a winding material of a fiber nature around a GC component member in the field of chromatography to modify Hedegaard except by resort to impermissible hindsight.

Similarly, the rejection of claim 11 is traversed. Claim 11 recites an apparatus for fixing a fur to a pelting board comprising a pelting board holder, a fur holder and a band winding unit, and wherein the band winding unit is movable around the pelting board holder for retaining the fur to the pelting board after the pelting board is removed from the pelting board holder. Claim 11 is patentable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to method claim 9.

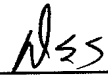
Moreover, the dependent claims recite additional features of the method of claim 9 or the apparatus of claim 11 which are not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of Hadegaard and Mustacich et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the claims in the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (900.46373X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

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